

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Rope made of cellulose fibers, the polymeric chemical structure of which
5 fibers has not been modified (referred to as "raw" cellulose fibers), are subjected to
intense electron beam irradiation insufficient to degrade their chemical structure but
sufficient to modify their physical structure so as to allow them to be comminuted into
fragments having a length no more than 6.35 mm (0.25"), preferably less than 3.175
mm (0.125"), and preferably 50% by weight of the fibers have a length less than
10 70 μ m. Such fragments of fibers are found to be particularly susceptible to being
micronized in a micronizer into elongated granular fragments smaller than about
20 μ m at an economical production rate in excess of 22.7 Kg/hr (50 lb/hr) which was
not possible when the micronizer was fed with naturally occurring fibers.